

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03837 01 OF 02 111530Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 EB-07 TRSE-00
DHA-02 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
PRS-01 EPG-02 COME-00 /065 W
-----007157 111707Z /46

R 111440Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8482
INFO USMISSION USUN NY
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KUWAIT 3837

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, APER

SUBJECT: ORGANIZING FOR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

REF: STATE 148782

1. EMBASSY HANDLING OF MULTILATERAL QUESTIONS. WE HAVE REVIEWED OUR ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDLING AND REPORTING ON MULTILATERAL QUESTIONS AND HAVE FOUND THEM GENERALLY SATISFACTORY FOR RESPONDING TO GUIDANCE OR INSTRUCTIONS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE SOME SUGGESTIONS, INDICATED BELOW, FOR CHANGES OF PROCEDURE IN WASHINGTON WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD MAKE OUR RESPONSES BETTER AND QUICKER.

2. THERE IS DANGER THAT USG MAY OVERLOAD THE CIRCUIT IN TINY KUWAIT WITH DEMANDS, REQUESTS, AND INFORMATION ON MULTILATERAL MATTERS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE ARE YET AT THAT POINT, BUT WE DO RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPT. PROVIDE MORE LATITUDE TO EMBASSY IN DECIDING WHETHER TO MAKE DEMARCHES OR UNDERTAKE INFORMATIONAL EFFORTS. WE SHOULD LIKE NOT TO BE PUT IN THE POSITION OF BEING REQUIRED TO

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 03837 01 OF 02 111530Z

RAISE ISSUES OF LOW PRIORITY WITH THE HARD-PRESSED, SMALL NUMBER OF GOK DECISION-MAKERS, IF WE ARE CERTAIN THEY ARE WHOLLY DISINTERESTED. WE ALSO HAVE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS RE FORMAT AND STYLE OF INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES EMANATING FROM WASHINGTON:

A. WHEN DEPT. INTENDS THAT A DEMARCHE BE MADE, IT SHOULD, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, PROVIDE THE TEXT OF A NOTE OR AIDE-MEMOIRE (OR INFORMATION WRITTEN SIMPLY AND DIRECTLY WITHOUT ACRONYMS OR USG JARGON) TO ENABLE THE EMBASSY TO MERELY TYPE UP OR EVEN XEROX AN "INFORMATION SHEET" FROM DEPT. CABLE OR USINFO MESSAGE, WITHOUT INVOLVING EMBASSY IN EDITING, REFORMULATING OR RESEARCHING ISSUE FROM PAST MESSAGES. THIS WILL ENABLE US TO ACT MORE QUICKLY ON DEPT. REQUESTS.

B. ALL DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE SENT TO THE KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTRY MUST BE IN ARABIC. WE BELIEVE THAT, IN TERMS OF USG MAN HOURS, IT IS FAR MORE ECONOMICAL TO TRANSLATE THEM IN WASHINGTON THAN AT 20 OR MORE POSTS IN ARABIC-SPEAKING COUNTRIES. OUR STAFF OF ONE AND ONE-HALF TRANSLATORS IS ALREADY OVERBURDENED. WE SUGGEST THAT, WHERE POSSIBLE, ARABIC TRANSLATIONS OF KEY TEXTS, LETTERS, ETC., BE SENT VIA THE ARABIC WIRELESS FILE. (OURS IS SOON TO BE INSTALLED.) THIS WOULD SEEM TO APPLY ALSO TO OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS WITH THIS FACILITY.

C. WE HAVE A DEPARTMENT SPEAKERS BUREAU FOR THE DOMESTIC US AUDIENCE. WE NEED SOMETHING SIMILAR
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KUWAIT 03837 01 OF 02 111530Z

FOR FOREIGN OFFICIALS AND INFORMED AUDIENCES, PARTICULARLY ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES, ON WHICH EMBASSY OFFICERS ARE SOMETIMES NOT FULLY BRIEFED. WE HAVE IN MIND DEPT. OFFICERS OF THE OFFICE DIRECTOR LEVEL (OR HIGHER) MAKING QUICK SWINGS THROUGH REGIONS PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF IMPORTANT MULTILATERAL ISSUES BY INTERNATIONAL FORA.

3. COMMENTS ON US OBJECTIVES. STEPS TO ACHIEVE THEM, AND CIRCUMSTANCES PECULIAR TO KUWAIT. WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE OBJECTIVES OUTLINED IN PARA. 3 OF REFTEL AND OTHER US MULTILATERAL OBJECTIVES:

A. NORTH/SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES. KUWAIT IS INTERESTED IN THESE ISSUES TO EXTENT THAT THEY EQUATE PRICE OF PETROLEUM EXPORTED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO THOSE OF INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES IMPORTED. GOK - PARTICULARLY ITS TOP OFFICIALS - IS NOT PARTICULARLY WELL-INFORMED ON NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES. ON THE OTHER HAND, KUWAITA-BASED KUWAIT FUND FOR ARAB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(KFAED), ARAB FUND FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (AFESD), AND ORGANIZATION OF ARAB PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OAPEC) CONTAIN NUMBERS OF HIGHLY TRAINED PROFESSIONALS WHO FOLLOW NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES WITH CONSIDERABLE INTEREST. OAPEC AND KFAED WELCOME GUEST SPEAKERS AND ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE AN INTERESTED, HIGH-LEVEL AND ARTICULATE AUDIENCE OF KUWAITIS AND THIRD COUNTRY ARABS FOR GUEST SPEAKERS ON VERY SHORT NOTICE. WE RECOMMEND THAT MORE GUEST SPEAKERS FAMILIAR WITH USG POSITIONS ON N/S RELATED ISSUES BE PROGRAMMED THROUGH KUWAIT.

B. IMF/IBRD ISSUES. THERE IS ALSO HUNGER
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PAGE 04 KUWAIT 03837 01 OF 02 111530Z

HERE FOR INFORMATION ON PURELY FINANCIAL ISSUES. WE COULD USE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE INFORMATION (AGAIN PRE-PACKAGED SO THAT IT CAN BE MERELY HANDED OVER WITHOUT EDITING OR TRANSLATING) ON US POSITIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FORUMS, DOMESTIC SPEECHES BY KEY US OFFICIALS, AND STUDIES BY US AGENCIES AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS ON THESE MATTERS. COPIES OF BRIEFING PAPERS FOR INTERNAL EB USE WOULD BE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL IN HELPING US TO KEEP ABREAST OF US POLICY IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. KUWAITI OFFICIALS TRAVEL FREQUENTLY TO GENEVA, LONDON AND NEW YORK. IT IS EMBARRASSING WHEN THEY ARE BETTER INFORMED ON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ISSUES THAN WE ARE.

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03837 02 OF 02 111535Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KUWAIT 3837

C. HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. GOK HAS A REASONABLE ATTITUDE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN GENERAL. OUR RECENTLY ARTICULATED POLICY ON SOUTHERN AFRICA IS VIEWED VERY POSITIVELY AS RECOGNITION BY A BIG OPOWER OF THE RIGHTS OF NON-EUROPEAN MAJORITIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS ONE GREAT "BLIND SPOT" HERE. KUWAITIS, ALONG WITH OTHER ARABS, ARE CONVINCED THAT US HAS TURNED ITS BACK ON ISRAELI VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF ARABS LIVING ON THE WEST BANK OF THE JORDAN RIVER AND IN THE GAZA STRIP. WE RISK A "BACKLASH" ON THIS IF WE PRESS TOO HARD ON A MULTILATERAL HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, WHICH THE KUWAITIS, FOR SOME LACK OF INTEREST OR OTHER EXTRANEIOUS REASON, ARE NOT EAGER TO SUPPORT.

D. UN ISSUES: THE BUDGET, UN STRUCTURE AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. THE KUWAIT UN DELEGATION VIRTUALLY DEFINES NATIONAL POSITIONS ON MANY UN ISSUES. KUWAITI PERM REP ABDULLAH BISHARA HAS THE CONFIDENCE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER, HAVING WORKED AS HIS OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR SOME YEARS, AND HAS WIDE LATITUDE TO DETERMINE KUWAITI
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 03837 02 OF 02 111535Z

POSITIONS ON THESE ISSUES. AS OUR REPORTING ON THESE AND OTHER UN MATTERS REFLECTS, THEREFORE, THERE IS USUALLY LITTLE MILEAGE TO BE MADE IN APPROACHING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HERE. ON TRULY VITAL ISSUES, APPROACHES TO THE MINISTER MIGHT PROFITABLY BE MADE. REGARDING THE UN BUDGET, WE WOULD NEED DETAILED FACTS AND FIGURES, INCLUDING COMPARISONS ON SALARIES OF USG PERSONNEL AND OTHER STATISTICS. THE KUWAITIS MIGHT WELL SUPPORT US ON SOME ASPECTS, BUT IN ANY EVENT, THEY WOULD NOT CARE VERY MUCH ABOUT THE BUDGET ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. ON THE ISSUES OF UN STRUCTURE AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, WE WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE COLD RECEPTIONS, SINCE KUWAIT WILL CERTAINLY STRIVE TO REMAIN WITH THE THRID WORLD AND ARAB CONSENSUS ON SUCH QUESTIONS. IN ORDER TO CHANGE KUWAITI THINKING, WE WOULD HAVE TO ESTABLISH CLEAR THIRD WORLD ADVANTAGES FOR STRUCTURAL CHANGES. RE PLO

INVOLVEMENT IN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, THE ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE WILL CONTINUE TO BE A MILLSTONE AROUND OUR NECKS WHEN WE SEEK TO PERSUADE KUWAIT TO ABANDON TRADITIONAL POSTURES, IN THE ILO, UNESCO AND ELSEWHERE.

E. TRADITIONAL POLITICAL/ECONOMIC ISSUES. WE EXPECT TO DO AS WELL WITH THE KUWAITIS THIS YEAR AS IN THE PAST ON THE TRADITIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES AT THE UN, BUT OUR EXPECTATION CONTAINS A LARGE CAVEAT ALLOWING FOR THE KUWAITI PERM REP'S WIDE AUTONOMY. ON MAJOR FINANCIAL QUESTIONS RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, DECISIONS ARE MADE HERE. THIS IS ONE AREA WHERE THE EMBASSY CAN MAKE SOME IMPRESSION, BUT IT NEEDS TO BE FULLY BRIEFED, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 03837 02 OF 02 111535Z

BECAUSE FINANCE MINISTER AL-ATEEQI IS SO KNOWLEDGEABLE, AND, PREFERABLY, TO BE ARMED WITH A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, IF APPROPRIATE.

4. WE WISH TO NOTE HERE THE EFFECTIVE ROLE OUR USIS PLAYS IN BRINGING MATERIAL MADE AVAILABLE VIA THE WIRELESS FILE TO THE ATTENTION OF DECISION-MAKERS AND OPINION-MOULDERS IN KUWAIT. ON MATTERS IN WHICH KUWAITIS ARE INTERESTED, WE HAVE FOUND A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF US POSITIONS AS A RESULT. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO USE AND DEVELOP FURTHER USIS ASSETS AND CONTACTS IN ORDER TO FORWARD US INTERESTS IN MULTILATERAL MATTERS.

5. DCM PETER A. SUTHERLAND IS EMBASSY MLO. DURING HIS ABSENCE ON HOME LEAVE UNTIL AUG. 15, ADCM GARETT SWEANY IS ACTING MLO. MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: ORGANIZING FOR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY
TAGS: PORG, APER
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